

REMARKS

Claims 3 – 16, 19 – 21, 24 – 26 and 28 - 30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 27 were previously canceled. Claims 28 – 30 are being added by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In items 1 – 3 of the Office Action, claims 3¹, 14 and 15 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants are correcting the informalities as suggested by the Examiner. A withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 3 – 8, 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. More specifically, the Office Action indicates that in claims 3 and 19, the recital of “a second raster element is assigned to a first raster element” is indefinite because it is unclear what structure is set forth by this limitation. Claims 4 – 8 and 12 are apparently being rejected because they depend from claim 3. To address this rejection, Applicants are amending claims 3 and 19 to recite that “each of said second raster elements is in a light path from a corresponding one of said first raster elements.” Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 112 rejection.

In item 7 of the Office Action, claims 9 – 11, 13 - 16, 20, 21 and 24 – 26 are rejected² under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,677,939 to Oshino (hereinafter “the Oshino patent”). This set of rejected claims contains six independent claims, namely claims 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26. Applicants are clarifying an aspect of claims 9, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 26 that is not disclosed by the Oshino patent.

¹ Item 1 of the Office Action indicates that claim 1 is objected to. However, claim 1 was previously canceled, and based on the nature of the objection, it is apparent the objection should have been directed toward claim 3.

² Item 7 of the Office Action indicates that claims 9, 10 – 16, 20, 21 and 24 – 26 are rejected. However, from the details of the rejection, it is clear that claims 9 – 11, 13 – 16, 20, 21 and 24 – 26 are being rejected.

Claim 9 provides for an illumination system. The illumination system includes, *inter alia*, first raster elements arranged on a support structure in a plurality of rows, wherein at least one of the plurality of rows includes at least two of the first raster elements.

FIG. 2 of the present application is an illustration of a field raster element plate 1, configured with field raster elements 3 arranged in a rows 5, wherein at least one of the rows 5 includes at least two field raster elements 3. The specification, in a passage at page 5, lines 6 - 22, explains that the configuration of field raster elements 3 of FIG. 2 provides for efficiency, i.e., coverage of an illuminated surface, of more than 95%.

The Oshino patent, FIG. 3A, is a plan view of a reflection type optical integrator 2, and FIG. 3B is a cross-section of taken along line d-d' of FIG. 3A. The Oshino patent explains that cylindrical reflecting surfaces are continuously and integrally formed in only one direction, and that reflection type optical integrator 2 is simpler in structure than a conventional reflection type optical integrator using a fly's eye mirror (col. 9, lines 47 - 54).

As is apparent from FIGS. 3A and 3B, reflection type optical integrator 2 does not include first raster elements arranged in a plurality of rows, wherein at least one of the plurality of rows includes at least two of the first raster elements. Thus, the Oshino patent does not disclose first raster elements arranged on a support structure **in a plurality of rows**, wherein at least one of the plurality of rows includes **at least two** of the first raster elements, as recited in claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Oshino patent does not anticipate claim 9.

Claims 10, 11 and 13 depend from claim 9. By virtue of this dependence, claims 10, 11 and 13 are also novel over the Oshino patent.

Claims 14 and 15 each includes a recital similar to that of claim 9, described above. Thus, claims 14 and 15, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 9, are novel over the Oshino patent.

Claim 16 depends from claim 15. By virtue of this dependence, claim 16 is also novel over the Oshino patent.

Claims 20 and 21 each includes a recital similar to that of claim 9, described above. Thus, claims 20 and 21, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 9, are novel over the Oshino patent.

Claim 24 depends from claim 20, and claim 25 depends from claim 21. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 24 and 25 are novel over the Oshino patent.

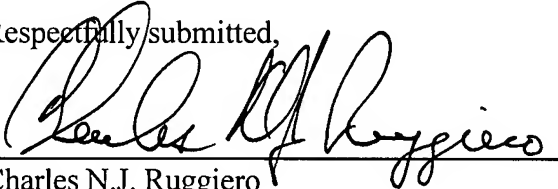
Claim 26 includes a recital similar to that of claim 9, described above. Thus, claim 26, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 9, is novel over the Oshino patent.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claim claims 9 – 11, 13 – 16, 20, 21 and 24 – 26.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

August 10, 2007
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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